



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**District Man Sentenced to 148 Months in Prison  
for First Degree Burglary While Armed**

***--Victim was a former Georgetown Basketball player --***

**Washington, D.C.** - Aaron Johnson, 21, of Northeast Washington D.C., was sentenced today by the Honorable Robert I. Richter of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to over 12 years in prison for his role in a July 2008 beating of a former Georgetown basketball player in July 2008, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr.

On April 7, 2009, a Superior Court jury returned guilty verdicts against the defendant on charges of First Degree Burglary while Armed, Aggravated Assault while Armed, and Felony Assault relating to a beating with a baseball bat which occurred in the 1200 block of Meigs Place, NE, Washington, D.C., on July 28, 2008. The sentencing occurred one year after the verdicts were delivered because Johnson absconded at the end of his trial and was on a bench warrant status for approximately ten months. In fact, Johnson was absent from the courtroom when the jury announced its verdicts. Johnson was sentenced to a total of 148 months in prison.

According to the government's evidence at trial, on July 28, 2008, the victim was attempting to enter his apartment in the 1200 block of Meigs Place, NE, through the back gate, when a group of men began charging him. The victim and his girlfriend ran inside and locked the door behind them. Within moments, a group of men broke down the front door of the apartment; at least two men were armed with a baseball bat and a gun. The victim attempted to hide in a closet in the bedroom, and one suspect struck him repeatedly with the baseball bat. The defendant stood on the victim's bed and pointed a handgun at him, to prevent him from escaping.

As a result of the beating, the victim suffered a fractured elbow, as well as bruising to his eye, wrist and knee. He required surgery to repair his fractured elbow.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the outstanding investigative work of Detectives Carter Adams, Jonathan Clingerman, Anthony Commodore, Dexter Martin, and Darryl Young of the Metropolitan Police Department. Further, U.S. Attorney Machen acknowledged the efforts of the following members of the Metropolitan Police Department: Crime Scene Officer Karl Turner, Officers Valkryie Barnes and Melissa Hudson, and Sergeant Durriyyah Habeebullah of the Fifth District. Mr. Machen also commended paralegal specialists Antoinette Sakamsa and Baretta Francis for their support. Finally, Mr. Machen acknowledged the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Keith Becker, who investigated and indicted the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric P. Gallun, who prosecuted the case at trial and represented the government at sentencing.

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